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DES Newsletter

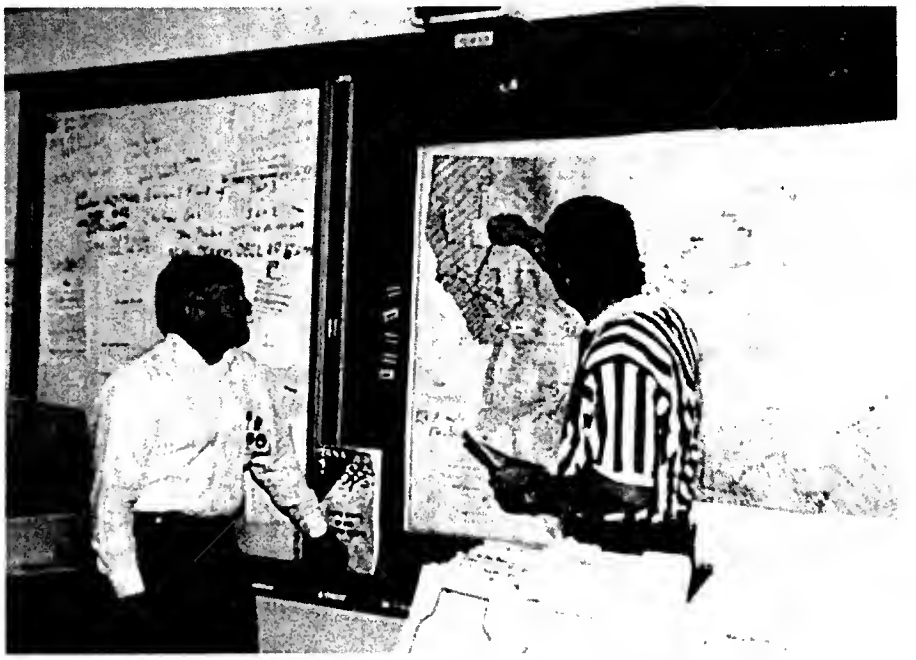
Volume 31 | June 1996 | Number 2

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE:

Montana recently received another Presidential flood declaration for Flathead, Toole, Liberty, Blaine, Hill and Phillips counties. A Disaster Field Office has been established in Havre. Unfortunately, the flooding may not be over as high mountain snow packs are just beginning to melt.

The Alberton train derailment will provide many opportunities for training and revision of hazardous materials response plans. The many local, private, state and federal agencies involved should be congratulated for their cooperation and success in responding to the incident. It was a very trying time for local residents and tested local responders for over 17 days.

The Freeman standoff near Jordan continues to utilize local, state and federal resources for an unprecedented amount of time. Undoubtedly there will be many lessons to learn from this incident. With all the response and recovery activities occurring, we are preparing for next year's budget and work plans. The District Representatives will soon be working with local coordinators on their annual statements of work.



Jim Greene & Steve Knecht, DES Emergency Operations Center

One new technology we are testing for the summer is a mobile satellite telephone. It essentially has coverage anywhere in the state and will be made available to local governments in time of emergencies. Contact Homer Young for further information.

Congratulations to Ed Swetish, American Red Cross, for winning the J.C. Penny Golden Rule Award for exceptional volunteer service to the community.

Hopefully our period of "disasters of the month" is over with and we can get back to more routine work and take advantage of the many lessons learned.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Jim Greene

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Lewis and Clark County

Local, State and Federal Partnership Produces Results

A group of local, state and federal emergency response and management officials formed the Tri-County Wildland Interface Working Group after the North Hills fire that burned 27,000 acres near Helena in 1984. The purpose of the group was to tell the public that wildfire danger could be mitigated when building in the urban wildland interface.

The counties represented in the group are Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater. Participants include DNRC, rural fire departments and councils, DES, the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's department, Helena National Forest and the Helena Fire Department.

After years of field work by committee member and Wolf Creek Fire Chief, Sonny Stiger, the group completed a wildfire risk map of northern Jefferson County. The GIS map shows areas of high, medium and low wildfire risk based on fuels, topography and aspect. The intent is to educate the public and to encourage hazard mitigation steps that can be taken by homeowners to decrease the danger.

Other maps of Lewis and Clark County are soon to be completed, for a total of 49 quads with the wildfire risk analysis. The maps will be presented to fire departments, DNRC, county commissioners, sheriff's departments, and DES coordinators. The maps will be displayed at fairs, libraries, public meetings and courthouses along with the "Could Your Montana Home Survive a Wildfire" pamphlets to encourage people to reduce the risk in their area.

The Tri-County Fire Group meets monthly and has been instrumental in providing other public education and information projects over the years through various funding sources contributed by group members and other agencies.

Paul Spengler

FROM THE EDITOR:

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles, *especially on disk*. Those who contributed to this edition of the newsle are: Fred Cowie, Bob Fry, Jim Greene, Jim Hamilton, Monique Lay, Dave Maser, Dan McGowan, Fred Naeher and Paul Spengler.

For more information on the following agenda, refer to Fred Naeher's article on page 9 of this newsletter.

WSSPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
September 18-21, 1996
Polson, Montana

Conference Sessions
(subject to change)

General Sessions

"Implementation of HAZUS: A National Earthquake Loss Estimation Tool"	"Lessons from Kobe and Northridge"
"Earthquake and Hazard Insurance"	"Utilizing Seismic Safety Commissions"

Breakout Sessions and Workshops

Mitigation	**Preparedness**
"Tsunami Hazard Mitigation"	"Earthquake Efforts at Public Utilities"
"Implementation of HAZUS: A National Earthquake Loss Estimation Tool"	"Local/Tribal Preparedness Initiatives"
Emergency Response	**Geology**
"Urban Search and Rescue"	"*Synopsis of Seismic Threats in the Western United States: Impacts to the National Transportation Infrastructure* - A WSSPC/DOT Monograph"
"Comprehensive Post-Earthquake Information Management"	"Seismic Mapping Projects"
EQ Information	**Partnerships**
"Earthquake Information Providers and the Earthquake Information Network"	"Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Committee"
"The Earthquake Community and The World Wide Web"	"Basin and Range Province Committee"
	"Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup"
"Multimedia and Community Education"	"Idaho National Engineering Laboratory: Creating Partnerships"

WSSPC Business

WSSPC Board of Directors Meeting
WSSPC General Business Meeting
WSSPC Strategic Planning Committee

So... Whatever Happened to State DES?

Where'd They Go?

Perhaps you're wondering why you haven't heard from anyone from the State Disaster and Emergency Services Division for awhile. Or, maybe, you've been trying to reach one of us, but just end up playing "terminal telephone tag". Well, ... we understand your frustrations and feel explanation is probably in order.

Dave Maser, DES Exercise Training Officer

Life got a little more complicated for DES and its staff beginning back in early February. As you may recall, we were actually engaged in a joint District III and IV training exercise [simulating severe winter weather conditions] when several areas of the state were simultaneously subjected to wide-spread flooding caused by ice jams. Since Febru-ary 2, 1996, local jurisdictions throughout Montana (both cities and counties) have issued a total of thirty-one (31) separate emergency and/or disaster declarations. Governor Racicot has declared the State to be in emergency or disaster situations a total of five (5) times since then. And, President Clinton has already issued a presidential disaster declaration covering fourteen Montana counties. (Even as this article goes to print, we're anxiously awaiting word from FEMA about a second pending gubernatorial request for federal disaster assistance.)

So.... the *short answer* to the question "*Where'd they go?*" is simply, "*We've been in the E.O.C.*"! The *State Emergency Operations Center*, located in the basement of the National Guard Armory in Helena, has been activated for a total of eighty-one (81) days since February. [The 81 day figure does include some overlap between several simultaneous incidents.]

During that period the EOC operated around-the clock (24hrs) for roughly fifteen (15) days. Even when the EOC wasn't open 24 hours, we did operate on "extended hours" (usually 12-14 hrs shifts). As a result of those efforts we've had to reschedule, reprioritize and, on occasion, postpone some of the commitments we'd made to our regular customers.

What (Specific Incidents) Were we Involved In?

Choteau [Teton Co.] Natural Gas Incident
February 2 - 4 . . . . . 3 days
February Statewide Flooding
February 7 - 23 . . . . . 17 days
Missoula DFO
March 4 - April 29 . . . . . 56 days
March Flooding [Flathead & High-line counties]
March 12 - 20 . . . . . 9 days
Operation Grey Sunset
March 25 - ?? . . 51 days (so far)
Alberton Derailment
April 11 - 28 . . . . . 18 days
Dodson Derailment
April 15 - 17 . . . . . 3 days
State Area Coordination Center [Helena]
April 18 - 20 . . . . . 3 days

Dave Maser

FROM THE DESK OF:

Dan McGowan
Planning Bureau Chief

The recent flooding proved interesting for Individual Assistance programs in view of the fact no federal funds were available. The four counties hit the hardest were Chouteau, Lincoln, Ravalli and Sanders. A real community effort occurred to pull together information and help out local neighbors. These counties were visited by various agencies at different times with the intent of providing assistance to disaster victims. A lot of the victims went on a wonderful roller coaster ride of heightened expectations to minimal help to "sorry - no assistance was available." All counties with damage did an admirable job of keeping disaster victims focused.

Montana's experience was a picture of what occurred in Idaho, except the great potato state had an Individual Family Grant assistance program to help victims. All along, agency assistance possibilities unveiled themselves the more one asked questions. It became very apparent that nothing had been done to really coordinate and understand Individual Assistance during disasters. No wonder EMI hadn't included IA training in the yearly roster of scheduled classes - no one understood the full details of the program and the many agencies which may offer assistance.

In view of our experiences, Montana DES is embarking on a project to coordinate all available Individual Assistance programs. The project will focus on assistance during non-declared, gubernatorial and presidential declared situations. The first meeting to kick-off the project will be held in Helena on June 14th. The list of expected representatives includes various VOAD organizations, DES coordinators, state and federal agencies and private entities.

FROM THE DESK OF:

Fred Cowie
Haz-Mat Program Manager

"Polson Training Events"

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and DES Division co-sponsored four training events with Rohm and Haas Company in Polson during April. The Rohm and Haas "Safety Train" provided the basis for training for hazmat personnel from fire departments; city, county, state and federal agencies; and railroad hazmat technicians. At the Indian Nations and Local Communities HazMat Conference, training was also provided by Dave Jones of the Arizona Department of Public Safety on Explosives Awareness and by the Fred Burnside of the EPA and Kris McLean, Assistant U.S. Attorney for Montana, on Environmental Crimes Awareness.

"Missoula Training Events"

The Third Annual SERC/TERC/LEPC Conference is scheduled for September 10th and 11th in Missoula at the 4B's Motel and Conference Center, 3803 Brooks Street. The agenda will include two successful modules from the Polson conference, being Explosives Awareness and Environmental Crimes Awareness. Added to these will be some training put on by the hazmat fire folks from Missoula, as well as a module on the Alberton Train Derailment. Mailings concerning registration will be sent out in late July or early August.

"USDOT-HMEP HazMat Grants"

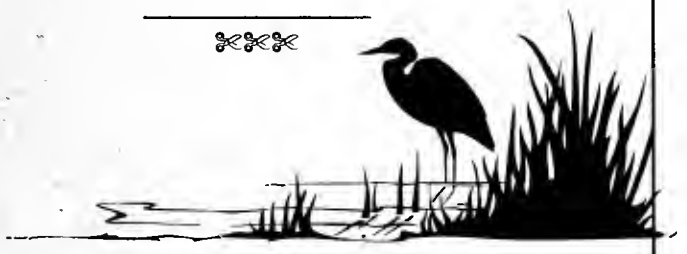
The application packages for Federal Fiscal Year 1997 USDOT-HMEP HazMat Grants will be sent out in early June. Any LEPC wishing to apply for a Planning Grant should notify Fred Cowie at the MTDES Division, 1100 N. Main, Helena, MT, 59620 or 444-6965 by fax, in order that the SERC will have an idea of how many applicants to expect. As in the first three years, the Montana SERC will apply for all monies available to Montana. LEPCs will have until August 15th to return application packages. There are no major changes in application procedures, therefore preparation for application can be made using previous years' guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact Fred at 444-6911.

Teton County News

Teton County 4/3/96---Lynn Valtinson gave a presentation of weather Spotter training/ information to the Teton County Weather Spotters group. The meeting was well attended and the presentation created a good question and answer session. The education was especially appreciated by the new members who attended. Several of them mentioned that they feel very comfortable with the reporting procedures as explained by Lynn. Valtinson says he is available for this type of presentation, just contact him .

Teton County also started preplanning meetings in the event of flooding in the county in the near future. The Forest Service annual survey says there is 126% of normal snow pack in the mountains west of the county and this accumulation has above average moisture content. With the continuation of cool days and freezing at night the run-off has been very slow. This indicates that, when the warm weather does arrive and maybe spring rains, that the chances of major water flow will be very possible. This group is separate from the LEPC and it is nice to see interest from such a diversified section of the public. City Mayor and Administrator, Fire, EMS, Law, Red Cross, ASCS, Commissioners and, with 38 attending, there was a good cross-section of the community. This committee will coordinate and cooperate with the LEPC to work on pre-planning and response to a possible flood occurrence.

Jim Hamilton



District III News:

Alan Hanson is now working for Red Lodge as the assistant fire chief. He is also to be married on June 15 to Debbie Klinger in Livingston; for more details give Alan a call in Red Lodge at 446-1709. Several things art: happening in the district with all the flooding this winter and potential this spring. I will be making the rounds through the District soon working on SOWs for 1997. That is, if spring flooding doesn't take precedence.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM WORKING TEAM

Because of the recent activity involving several uses of Incident Command teams for managing floods and the Alberton hat-mat incident, there has been a demand for the ICS all-risk task books that have been drafted by the working team. We are in the process of completing the draft to put out for use in order to capture qualifying the people who have "done the work". There are two counties/areas who are leading the way in developing Incident Management Teams. Missoula and Gallatin are both working on pools of people to manage incidents. I hope to distribute at least a draft of the task books for use in qualifying within the next month.

There are some additional items which are also available from your District Representative which will be of some use to the "computer literate" types. We have organized on 3.5" diskette ICS forms and LGDIM forms in WordPerfect 6.O format. There are also some generic plans such as site evacuation, pet rescue, etc. We put these on diskette for users to customize for their own use. Send your District Rep two 3.5" floppies and they can disk copy them and send them back. The idea is to make as much of these forms and plans available generically so they can be filled in and printed at the time when needed. If you have any other forms on file to share we will add them to our database and make them available for others to use.

Bob Fry
District II Representative

RESOURCES

From the Editor:

FEMA, in conjunction with the American Red Cross and the Clorox Corporation has produced a brochure called, "Food and Water in an Emergency." The preparedness brochure contains topics related to recent and expected flooding in Montana. Some of the topics in the brochure include, "Short-Term Food Supplies", "Hidden Water Sources in Your Home", and "Three Ways to Purify Water". You can order this brochure directly from FEMA Publications @ 1-800-480-2520. The identification code is FEMA-L210, November 1994.

Hazmat transportation planning? For those of you with Internet access, here are some addresses which may be useful to you:

Federal Highway Administration:
http://ctil.volpe.dot.gov/ohim/
Federal Railway Administration:
http://www.dot.gov/dotinfo/fra/welcome.html
US Coast Guard:
http://www.dot.gov/dotinfo/uscg/welcome.html
Department of Transportation:
http://www.dot.gov

Help Wanted:

The city of Beaverton, Oregon
invites applications for:

EMERGENCY MANAGER

SALARY RANGE: $2,863 - $3,836 per month
CLOSING DATE: May 31, 1996 (or until filled)

ABOUT THE JOB: The Emergency Manager provides emergency management to the City including maintenance of the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan and provides a wide variety of operations including budgeting, disaster planning team coordination, training, planning, program development, program administration, policy development and incident management.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE JOB: Prepare and submit reports required by state/ federal grant; gather and compile data in preparation of special reports; prepare and administer program budget; develop and write policies and procedure on emergency management; prepare documentation for performance statements; design disaster exercises; prepare and conduct training.

TO QUALIFY: Requires a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college in Public Administration, Social Science, Fire or Law Enforcement; completion of FEMA Professional Development Series or possession of Certified Emergency Manager certification; two years experience in the management of an Emergency Management program; or any satisfactory equivalent combination of experience and training.

Requires knowledge of emergency management program components as defined by FEMA, Incident Command System, communications systems, EOC operations, state and federal emergency management program requirements, program design, planning and program budgeting, basic accounting and budgeting; skill to write reports and plans, develop curriculum, design disaster exercises; ability to use word processor/computer, speak in public and express ideas effectively, work long and unusual hours, work independently and without supervision, develop and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, volunteers, elected officials, and the public.

Requires possession of a valid driver's license and ability to meet City driving standards.

HOW TO APPLY: All interested individuals may apply by submitting a City of Beaverton application form and supplemental questions to the Human Resources Department, Beaverton City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith Drive, Beaverton, OR 97005, by 5:00 p.m. on May 31, 1996.

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★**NOTE:** This recruitment may be utilized to fill vacancies in this classification for up to six months.

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The following article is reprinted with permission from: "Our Watch: A publication of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency and Department of Fire and Building Services", Peggy Zimmer, Editor, phone 317-232-6363.

"Mutual aid: a handshake isn't enough"

-- by Bill Nicholson, general counsel for SEMA/DFBS. This column examines legal issues important to the building services, fire protection services, emergency medical services and emergency management communities. Its goals are to aid in understanding legal duties and to help solve legal problems before they arise. It is for your information only and does not constitute legal advice.

As I travel around the state informing emergency responders of their legal obligations, one topic which always comes up is mutual aid agreements. The reason for this is that the fire, emergency medical services and emergency management communities are encouraged, both by law and by common sense, to enter into mutual aid agreements. The reasoning behind mutual aid is sound -- in this era when emergency services providers are being told to do more with less, combining forces to battle a common foe preserves resources and allows more efficient response to crisis situations.

In our discussions of mutual aid, many groups across the state say that they have mutual aid agreements which are "just a handshake." This approach, they say, has always worked just fine. These folks believe that a handshake will always suffice.

I strongly disagree with this approach to mutual aid, and always suggest a written mutual aid agreement for several reasons. First, a written agreement provides a guideline for response during a crisis. Second, a written agreement clearly defines who is responsible for various expenses during and after the response. Third, and most important, written mutual aid agreements avoid conflict between agencies which need to be mutually supportive in future responses.

During a response, many important issues must be addressed immediately. Who is in overall command? Who is in command of responding units from the assisting jurisdiction? Who is responsible for the actions of responding agencies' employees? After the response, other issues arise. Who pays for the costs of response? Who is accountable for equipment damaged in the response? Who pays for medical expenses of injured responders? Who is responsible for workman's compensation for injured responders?

A written mutual aid agreement allows the time to address these vital issues in a calm atmosphere, with all agencies involved able to present their points of view. The time to consider these matters is not during an emergency response, when saving lives and preserving property are very correctly the top priority. Unfortunately, handshake agreements and discussions in the heat of emergency response have all too often been the cause of subsequent disagreement over who is responsible for expenses and legal liabilities. Indeed, long histories of friendship and cooperation have ended due to different understandings of handshake agreements.

Work with your local legal council to come up with written mutual aid agreements which address your concerns before an emergency arises. You'll be glad you did.

As previously mentioned, the law often encourages mutual aid agreements. For emergency management, Indiana Code 10-4-1-9 authorizes the director of the local emergency management organization to develop intrastate mutual aid agreements and to assist in negotiation of interstate agreements, which must be signed by the Governor. The guidelines for other local agencies are contained at Indiana Code 36-1-7. Firefighting and law enforcement agencies have particular limitations on agreement content, and agreements which involve state agencies or units of government of other states must have particular approvals.

When it comes to mutual aid in times of emergency, the issues are too important to be entrusted to a handshake. Work with your local legal counsel to come up with written mutual aid agreements which address your concerns before an emergency arises. You'll be glad you did.

-- Do you have a question involving mutual aid or another legal issues? If so, e-mail me in care of "Our Watch" at pzimmer@iquest.net. Your question could be the basis for a future column.

For those of you who like "mind games", give this a try:

Cities and Towns of Montana - (author and source unknown)

for example:

Clue:	City or Town:
Civil War Officer	Custer
Famous Circus	Ringling

Get it?
Have Fun!

→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→

Clue:	City or Town:
Small Horses:	
Large Snake:	
Ancient wreath won by hero:	
African Explorer:	
Small waterfall:	
Great learning:	
Kind of tree:	
Section of New York:	
A colon:	
Thermal fountain:	
Famous cannery:	
Hikers town:	
Oven:	
Girl of nineties:	
Fisherman's paradise:	
Famous sailor:	
Red gem:	
Fortified place:	
Flat plateau:	
To separate:	
Sauteing:	
Crimson Teepee:	
Medicated pond:	
King or queen:	
Crippled wild animal:	
Kind of berry:	
Distant Town:	
Book of accounts:	
End of city:	
Famous president:	
City of measurement:	
Utopia:	
Wild animal (several choices):	
Devil's tool:	
Greater amount:	
Little boy friend:	

FROM THE DESK OF:

Fred Naeher
Earthquake Program Manager

Those counties in seismic zones 2B, 3 and 4 may be interested in our Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Annual Conference, which will be hosted this year by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services and FEMA. Dates will be: September 18-21, 1996 in Polson. Sorry, there are no funds available for invitational travel or per diem.

What is WSSPC? It is a regional organization of seismologists and emergency managers representing Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Virgin Islands, Washington and Wyoming. Mexico and Japan have been invited. The primary objectives of the organization are to: Promote interstate cooperation; develop strategies to enhance earthquake preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery programs; coordinate with other national earthquake organizations to develop national earthquake policy positions; establish and sponsor training programs; raise the overall awareness at all levels, of earthquake hazards and methods to mitigate these hazards.... to name a few.

The WSSPC Annual Conference will be held at the KwaTaqNuk Resort on the doorstep of Montana's Flathead Lake. The resort is located on the shore of the lake, which is south of Glacier National Park. The resort commands a sweeping view of the Mission Mountains and the largest fresh water lake in the West. The KwaTaqNuk is owned and operated by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and brings together the finest in quality hospitality and services.

Room Reservations --1-800-882-6363 $48.00 single, $78.00 double (+ 4% room tax), $10.00, each additional guest.

Registration:

The WSSPC registration fee entitles participants to attend all programs and social events, including all breakfasts and lunches, the conference banquet and the vendor fair.

- All registration fees must be paid prior to attendance at the conference
- WSSPC will invoice prior to the conference. Invoices will not be issued on site or after the conference.
- Payment is mandatory for participation
- Registration fees can be paid by cash, check, state vouchers or by credit card

WSSPC will be hosting site visits to interesting seismic sites in the Mission Fault area of Montana. The excursion will take conference attendees to both geologically interesting sites, as well as areas of successful mitigation. Lunch will be provided during the field excursion.

Registration postmarked by:	8/1/96	after 8/1/96:
Registrant	$210	$240
Spouse/Guest	60	90
Field Excursion (including lunch)	25	25

✂----------

Registration Form

Name:_____

Job Title:_____

Organization: _____

Phone: ( )_____

Address:_____

Fax: ( )_____

City, State, Zip:_____

E-mail: _____

Professional Emphasis:_____

(Emergency Management, Geoscience, Etc)

Spouse/Guest(s): (if attending)

_____

(Please see agenda on page 2)

Please complete the registration form, enclose conference fee (s) and mail to: Western States Seismic Policy Council, 121 2nd Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (we will also reserve space by fax or e-mail), telephone: (415) 974-6122, Fax: (415) 974-1747, e-mail: wsspc@wsspc.org. Visit the WSSPC web site at http://www.wsspc.org

Cancellation Policy: All cancellations must be received in writing and are subject to a $30/ person handling fee

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More on Cellular Phones

✆by Fred Naeher

Last issue I put together an article on the use of cell phones in automobiles and related safety issues. This article targets common sense and courtesy tips for cell phone users.

I have a theory: The smaller the cell phone, the louder they talk. This is particularly annoying when in a restaurant. A person in a nearby booth or table will pull out a tiny cell phone and virtually shout everything so the whole restaurant.....knows.

This week I called several cell phone companies and asked them if they had any brochures or information on cell phone protocol or just plain common sense do's and don'ts about use of the cell phone. Evidently, no one had ever put together an information brochure, as there was no need for one. I think there is a need to let cell phone users know that what may be convenient for them, could be disruptive to others.

➢Here are some suggestions for cell phone protocol as brainstormed by my colleagues:

1. At the onset of a meeting, request that cell phone users either turn them off and let voice mail take the message or leave the room as soon as it rings. If you have the vibrator type, all the better, but still leave the room. Have everyone agree that it is rude and disruptive for someone to answer the phone and carry on a conversation while in a meeting.

2. Routine messages can be handled later on in the day. That's when cell phones are very handy, so that you can find a quiet place and return calls without tying up the host's phone system.

3. If you routinely give out your cell phone number, expect routine calls. It is OK to tell people that your cell phone is for emergency use only, if that is the way you want to use it.

4. If you are calling someone from your cell phone, let them know that you are using a cellular so that if there is a lot of static, fading or distortion, they will know it is not their hearing or a problem on their end of the system.

5. Speak in a normal conversational tone when using a cellular. It does not make sense to leave the room, only to stand outside the door and shout. It is still disruptive to those around you.

6. If you are using 800 numbers, use the nearest "land line" phone. It does not make sense to call an 800 number on a cell phone when there is another way. Otherwise, someone has to pay twice; once for the air time on the cell and again for the minutes on the 800 number.

7. Beware of pacemakers. Cellular telephones- especially digital ones, can change the pace of pacemakers or speed up people's pulses when used near the heart-regulating devices, according to an Associated Press release. "What-ever kind of phone you are using, it is best to avoid carrying it around turned on in your breast pocket," said Dr. David Hayes, co-author of study funded by Wireless Technology Research.

Cell phones are a necessity for many people, especially those of us involved with emergency management. Proper use of the phone and "protocol" would allow this technology to be an important tool to improve our job performance, rather than an annoyance or "ego thing" that would turn people off.

What do you think? If you have any ideas or suggestions that would help out our cell phone protocol list, send them in.

P.S.- We got into some discussion on ATM machines. Cell phone protocol is a very similar to cash machine protocol. Have you noticed there is a certain distance that people stand away from the ATM when someone is using it? It is usually six to eight feet and no one seems to cut into that space or to catch a peak of your transaction.

....ELECTRONIC VIRUS WARNING....

as forwarded from bulletin board subject:

The FCC released a warning last week concerning a matter of major importance to any regular user of the internet. Apparently anew computer virus has been engineered by a user of America on Line that is unparalleled in its destructive capability. Other more well known viruses such as "Stoned", "Airwolf" and "Michaelangelo" pale in comparison to the prospects of this newest creation by a warped mentality.

What makes this virus so terrifying, said the FCC, is the fact that no program needs to be exchanged for a computer to be infected. It can be spread through the existing e-mail systems of the Internet. Once a computer is infected, one of several things can happen. If the computer contains a hard drive, that will most likely be destroyed. If the program is not stopped, the computer's processor will be placed in an nth-complexity infinite binary loop, which can severely damage the processor if left running that way too long. unfortunately, most novice computer users will not realize what is happening until it is far to late. Luckily, there is one sure means of detecting what is now known as the "Good Times" virus. It always travels to new computers the same way in a text e-mail message with the subject line reading "Good Times".

Avoiding infection is easy once the file has been received simply by NOT READING IT! The act of loading the file into the mail server's ASCII buffer causes the "Good Times" mainline program to initialize and execute. The program is highly intelligent as it will send copies of itself to other e-mail addresses you may have on file, then proceed to trash the computer it is running on. The bottom line is: If you receive a file with the subject line "Good Times", delete it immediately! Do not read it! Rest assured that whoever's name was on the "From" line was surely struck by the virus. Warn your friends and local system users of this newest threat to the Internet. It could save them a lot of time and money.

For more information, contact George H. Bowers, Vice President for Information Systems, University of Maryland Medical System, phone 410-328-2579, fax 410-328-0527, e-mail: gbowers@umms_itg.ab.umd.edu.

Another Virus:

DO NOT DOWNLOAD ANY FILE NAMED PKZIP300, REGARDLESS OF THE EXTENSION.

A new Trojan Horse Virus has emerged on the Internet with the name PKZIP300.ZIP, so named as to give the impression that this file is a new version of the PKZIP software used to "ZIP" (compress) files. If you install or expand this file, the virus WILL wipe out your hard disk and affect modems at 14.4 and higher. This is an extremely destructive virus and there is not yet a way of cleaning up this one.

For more information, contact David K. Chung, Business Development Manager, Novell, Inc., 2180 Fortune Drive, MS: F6-22-1, San Jose, CA 95131, e-mail DCHUNG@Novell.com, phone 408-577-8683, fax 408-577-5440.

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